



# INDUSTRY INSIGHT

**GAINING PERSPECTIVE  
ON THE **HEALTHCARE**  
INDUSTRY**



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# ABOUT



"Industry Insights" is an initiative representing a significant advancement in providing support to members of the Dubai Business Women Council (DBWC) through industry focused roundtable discussions. The diverse series of roundtables intend to assemble a dynamic group of industry experts who are DBWC members and recognized specialists within their respective fields. These experts will converge to address current challenges and delve into potential opportunities within their respective fields.



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# AGENDA

**January 30, 2024 | 9AM - 11AM**

The current healthcare landscape in the UAE



The global trends in healthcare – who is leading the way and which countries and companies are making their mark with the latest practices, tools, technology etc...



The challenges and opportunities for women in healthcare and the contributions of women in shaping the future of healthcare



# CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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The roundtable discussion, Chaired by Dr. Ibtesam Al Bastaki , Director of Investment and Partnership, Dubai Health Authority ( DHA ), explored key points and statistics addressing the current state of healthcare in Dubai.

In addition to the points mentioned in the agenda, the discussion also focused on the crucial need for specialized care in paediatrics, OBGYN, and orthopaedics, considering the population age range of 16 to 65. Highlights of the discussion points are summarized as follows:

## BED SHORTAGES AND DISCREPANCIES



A major concern highlighted was the shortage of hospital beds, revealing a significant gap between specialty availability and demand. The report emphasizes the urgency to address and fill this gap to meet the healthcare needs of the population.

## FUTURE REQUIREMENTS AND CHANGING LANDSCAPE



The forum projected the requirements in the next 2 to 5 years, emphasizing the growing demand for mental health and rehabilitation care. Mainstreaming population health management was identified as a vital need to adapt to changing medical practices and bring functional and western medicine together.

## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP) POLICY



The report underscores the impact of Law 22, launched in 2015, which encouraged PPP in healthcare. Specific areas, such as dialysis, post-acute healthcare management, physiotherapy, and rehabilitation centres, were handed over to private companies for management. The Cardiology Centre of Excellence stands as an exemplary PPP project, setting a regional benchmark.

## MEDICAL TOURISM AND INNOVATION MODELS



Dubai's efforts in setting healthcare standards for medical tourism were acknowledged, especially in orthopaedics, cosmetic, dentistry, fertility, and upcoming rehabilitation and mental health services. The report highlights Dubai's push for innovation through accelerator programs, attracting Med-Tech startups to enhance healthcare practices.

## WORKFORCE CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS



Several challenges concerning the healthcare workforce were discussed. These include retention of nurses, return on investment on capacity building, standardized salaries, licensing procedures, and the need for a clear career path. Suggestions were made to introduce incentives, golden visas, and a comprehensive plan to retain trained healthcare professionals.



## DIGITAL HEALTH AND SMART HOSPITALS



The need for smart healthcare and hospitals was raised, with mentions of collaborations with entities like Dubai Integrated Economic Zones and Dubai Silicon Oasis. Digital health startups stressed the importance of engaging the population for effective population health management.

## SUMMARY OF CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

In summary, the attendees expressed concerns related to the need for extensive research, clarity in policies and governance, retention strategies for the workforce, fostering more Public-Private Partnerships, policies for mental health practitioners working with insurance companies, and streamlined licensing processes.

These issues collectively contribute to the challenges faced in the evolving healthcare landscape of Dubai. This comprehensive report aims to provide insights into the critical areas that demand attention and strategic planning for the enhancement of healthcare services in Dubai.





## CHAired BY

**Dr. Ibtesam Al Bastaki**

Director of Investment & Partnership Department, **Dubai Health Authority**

## MODERATED BY:

**Nadine Halabi de Francesca**

Business Development Manager, **Dubai Business Women Council**

## ATTENDED BY:

**Aakanksha Tangri**

Founder, **Re:Set**

**Adenike Dairo**

Founder, **Mentra**

**Alina Polyakova**

Founder, **Mamahood**

**Alison Aranha**

Senior Project Advisor, **AA Health Central**

**Aur lie Maire**

Founder, Author, Scientist, Certified in Yoga Therapy & Women's Health Coach, **AHLC**

**Caroline Bilen**

CEO, **The Compass Health Consultancy**

**Deeipa Belani**

Founder & Owner, **2844 Lifestyle Coaching**

**Dianne Oldehinkel**

Senior Manager, **Danaher**

**Dr Hibah Shata**

CEO, **Maharat Learning Center**

**Dr Priyanka Sainani**

Founder & CWO, **Hygge Center**

**Jameela Korek**

Founder & Director, **Keyyada consultancy**

**Karen Dobson**

General Manager, **BodySmart Distribution**

**Marta Ramos Luqje**

Reproductive medicine and infertility consultant, **First IVF**

**Menatalla Mahmoud Elmadany**

Medical Doctor, **SEHA**

**Sonia Satham**

Director Operations & Wellness, **Panacea Medical & Wellness Centre**

**Zainab Ibrahim**

Founder & CEO, **Ritsh**

**Brian De Francesca**

Managing Director, **Maven**

**Ben Furneaux**

Health Services Expert

